Interview with Kathryn Clark-Bourne

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training Foreign Affairs Oral History Project

KATHRYN CLARK-BOURNE

Interviewed by: Charles Stuart Kennedy

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Q: Let's start at the beginning. Could you tell me where and when you were born and something about your family?

CLARK-BOURNE: Sure. I was born on October 15, 1924 in Fort Collins, Colorado. My father at that time was a math professor at Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, which later became Colorado State University. He was also a baseball coach. My mother's family was from a town in northern Wyoming, Gillette. They were Pennsylvania Dutch people who had come from the East. She and my father met at the University of Wyoming.

Q: So, you're a real daughter of the high plains.

CLARK-BOURNE: The town of Fort Collins is just at the end of the plains near the foothills of the Rockies. It's a mile above sea level. While growing up, we could hike across the fields, climb up into the foothills, and enjoy the mountains there.

Q: Where did you get your education?

CLARK-BOURNE: I went through primary school, junior high and high school there, except for one year in high school. Oh yes, and one year in primary school, when we were in Urbana, Illinois, where my dad was working on his Ph.D. And then, one year in high school, was spent in Berkeley, California, where he finished up his Ph.D.

Then I had one year at what is now Colorado State University. I had received a four-year scholarship when I was graduated cum laude from high school. We didn't have any money. Professors didn't make any money in those days, and I could live at home and that was great. At that time, the Second World War was in progress and after my freshman year Boeing Aircraft Company representatives came through Fort Collins trying to recruit young ladies to be trained as draftsmen to replace men, who were going off to the battlefield. So, I signed up. At the end of the training, which was given through the summer, they chose a few of the better students to go to Seattle to work in their plant. So, I went back to Seattle. I worked there for a year and a half, almost two years.

Q: What type of planes were you working on?

CLARK-BOURNE: The B-29 was the XB-29 then. That means it was experimental.

Q: It was the superfortress.

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, but it had already been drafted. I started out in what they call “master layout.” You work on long, low tables on sheets of metal that have been covered with paint. Your drafting instruments are metal and you draft full size. We were drafting the templates that would be used to cast the wings or the body of the plane.

We worked in downtown Seattle. One day, they asked me to go out to the plant at Boeing airfield, and take something to somebody out there. I passed a door that said “Top secret. Do not enter.” So, I entered, to see what it was all about and started talking with a man who worked there. He ended up inviting me to work there so I transferred out there.

They were working on a fighter plane. They had models in the wind tunnel and we'd go out to the wind tunnel and get the data and then come back and do the calculations and draft from that data.

Q: Boeing has always been known for putting out larger planes and not fighter planes.

CLARK-BOURNE: That's right. This fighter plane turned out to be too heavy. It was never produced. It never worked out. While I was there one of the great days came—I believe it was on VE day—and I ended up resigning from Boeing. By this time I had gained residency in the State of Washington and applied to go to the University of Washington. I did not want to go back to Colorado because by then my father was Dean of Faculty of the University. You'd get an A and they'd say, “That's because your old man is Dean of Faculty.”

While I was working at Boeing, I also worked nights as a soda jerk to save money to return to school.

Q: You'd better explain what a soda jerk is. I know, but for the others...

CLARK-BOURNE: In those days, you didn't get your Coke out of a can. Coca-Cola came in big barrels. They'd tap it and put it into the soda fountain. You'd put a little bit of syrup in a glass and fill it up with soda. That's when I learned not to drink Coca-Cola, by the way.

Q: Why?

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, the tap—you know, they're chrome-covered steel—fell into one of the barrels. We couldn't get it out until the barrel was empty. It was corroded beyond belief. I figured that, if it would do that to steel, what was it doing to my stomach?

Q: You're saying this as I'm drinking a diet Coca-Cola.

CLARK-BOURNE: And I've had my eye on it all the time!

At any rate, I was accepted into the School of Journalism. Because I was at Colorado for one year, I was there for only three years. They had something called “J.J.”, Junior Journalism. That year, you did nothing but journalism. We put out the school newspaper. We took turns having different assignments on the paper. I was graduated in 1947 with a Bachelor's Degree. During all this time, I had various jobs, usually in the school library, sometimes typing, etc., so I could keep myself going through university.

After graduation, I got a job as editor of the West Seattle Herald, which was a small weekly newspaper. While I was doing that, I noticed an ad in a newspaper asking for typists to work in Japan, in the Army of Occupation. I wanted to see the world, so I applied and was accepted. They sent us over to Japan on a military ship. I was assigned to G-2 under General Willoughby.

Q: G-2 being the...

CLARK-BOURNE: Intelligence, military intelligence. All the Japanese who had been prisoners-of-war in Manchuria had been brought back to Japan. We had interpreters who were interviewing them for any kind of information they could tell us about Manchuria—about how many buildings were in the camp they were in, for example.

I was a research analyst. I had to take that data and put it together into understandable reports. If I had questions, I could call back a certain prisoner-of-war and, through the interpreter, ask questions. When I first got over there, I was just a typist in a typing pool. But, within a week, they discovered that I had a college degree. That's why I was shifted over to research analysis.

Q: When you arrived there, what was your impression of Japan in 1947?

CLARK-BOURNE: When I first got there, some of the city had been bombed out.

Q: You were in Tokyo?

CLARK-BOURNE: I was in Tokyo, in the NYK building, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha building, which was just across the street and down a little bit from the railroad station, which had been bombed.

The Japanese were very nice. For we American civilians, practically everything was off-limits. We were not to go into any of the restaurants. We were not to go into any theaters or movies. On trains we were to go only in a car that had a white line painted on the outside. Well, of course, I wanted to see Japan—most of us did—and travel and do things. So, we were off-limits a lot of the time. For instance, we'd go into a movie theater and, in the middle of a movie, the MPs would come in with their flashlights looking for Americans. The Japanese were very nice about hiding us in the projection room. On the trains, they'd hide us in the baggage cars, so I managed to travel all over Japan that way. In this way, I got around a lot.

I hiked a lot. The Japanese like to go out for cherry blossom viewing or autumn leaf viewing, so we'd take a train out to the mountains and spend the whole weekend on all the trails. There would be lovely inns or rest places where we could stay overnight. I took the train down to Hiroshima, which had been completely bombed out. I left there in '49; the next time I was back was in '75. I could recognize nothing, except the Palace and the moat around it. Even Frank Lloyd Wright's original Imperial Hotel was gone. It was sort of sad.

Q: With this intelligence, what was your impression of what we were after at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: It was obvious that we were after any information we could find about the Soviet Union, and also China, because these were Communist countries at that time.

Q: Did you get any feel for the rule of General MacArthur as it pertained to what you were doing?

CLARK-BOURNE: General MacArthur was not very much liked. He was quite imperial. I had a boyfriend who was in the military. He was a German Jew, had gotten out of Germany, come across Siberia to Japan before the war. Then, when the war came, he and his family were sent to the United States. He went to school at the University of Michigan, but as he had the Japanese language, he was sent back to Japan when he joined the Army. By this time, his father was working for a big company here in the States and he'd come to Japan and visit occasionally. They had a house up at Lake Chuzenji in Japan, so we used to go up there a lot. MacArthur and wife had a place nearby and they would come up, too. There was no fraternization of any kind.

There was a tennis court down in Tokyo, near the Palace, and whenever MacArthur would come to play, his guards would come with their machine guns pointing and get everybody off of all of the courts. Not one person was allowed on any court, except MacArthur and whomever he was playing. The one thing I remember about him is that his guards—bodyguards, I guess you'd call them—were all very tall. When I would walk down from where I lived to the NYK building, I would pass by his office building. Usually about that time, his limousines would pull up and the guards would form lines along both sides from his car to the entrance, and he'd march through. That's all I ever had to do with him. I can't tell you anything more than that.

Q: Was there any State Department presence there at all that you were aware of?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not in Tokyo. In Yokohama, I think there was some presence at that time. When I left Japan, I had to get a passport.

Q: I think Alexis Johnson was running the place.

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, I think so.

Q: You left there in 1949, is that right?

CLARK-BOURNE: I left in 1949.

Q: What further?

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, I wanted to see the rest of the world. So, three other ladies and I booked onto a freighter that was to take us first over to China and then to the Philippines and then down to Singapore and then let us off in Calcutta. Well, the Bamboo Curtain rolled down before we finally got on it, so we didn't get to go to China.

We went to the Philippines where we picked up lots and lots of pineapple in every form imaginable: chucked, juiced, sliced, you name it. As they were loading, we went out and hiked in the forests and rented outriggers and went swimming. Of course, there were still bombs in some of the waters down there so we had to be careful. We left, finally, for Hong Kong. South of Iloilo, in the Philippines, we ran aground on a charted coral reef. There were 12 women passengers on this ship. Evidently, one of the ladies had been with the First Mate while he was on duty. The crew first shifted cargo and tried to get the ship off. Fortunately, there was no break in the hull. While they were doing that, we ladies did the housekeeping. After several days with no luck, they radioed the Philippines for a salvage master. They didn't want to do that because the salvage master takes 50% of the value of the cargo and the ship.

The salvage master came down with a small plane and a diver. The diver went down and discovered that we were stuck on a soft reef at about a 45-degree angle and that the only way they could get us off was to bring barges down, unload all the cargo, and pull us off, which they did. Then we had to go back to Iloilo to go into dry dock for the insurance company. So, we gals played some more: went hiking in the Philippines and things like that. It was fun. We went on to Singapore where we went to the Raffle's Hotel. By the way, it took two weeks to get us off the reef and, during that time, we were eating pineapple out of the cargo. The seaman were out fishing and we'd eat whatever they'd catch. So, by the time we got to Hong Kong, all I wanted was a chocolate ice cream sundae. By mistake,

they brought me a pineapple ice cream sundae. I'll never forget that. I never wanted to see pineapple again in my life!

We went on past Calcutta. Because we'd missed so much time and the freighter's sister ship was coming in the opposite direction and would stop in Calcutta, they told us to go to Karachi and offload our Calcutta cargo onto the sister ship. Of course, we were there without visas because we did not know we were going to Karachi. So, we were interned in the airport. We had visas for India. There was a sandstorm and it took us several days before we got out to India.

Q: This was just about the time of the partition, wasn't it?

CLARK-BOURNE: Just after the partition.

Q: Did you have a feeling of hostility between...?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, not at all, not that we had too much contact with anybody to get that feeling. Remember, we were literally just put in a hotel at the airport and had to stay there until we could get out.

We stayed in a hotel in Old Delhi for a couple days. We had gone down to Agra, of course. We wanted to see what that was all about. One night, I was in the dining room and my three lady friends had gone back to the room. There was only one other person in the dining room, an elderly gentleman. He sent the waiter over and asked if I would like to join him for a coffee and I said, “Sure.” By the way, we were having real problems. I wanted to go to Egypt because, when I was studying in Seattle, one of my boyfriends was an Egyptian working on a Ph.D. and he'd invited me to come and visit with him and his friend. We couldn't get visas. Supposedly, the US wasn't talking to Egypt at that time. Well, this gentleman wanted to know who we were and what we were doing and where we were going. I told him how badly I wanted to go to Egypt, but couldn't get visas, so I'd probably

have to go to Europe. He said, “Come to my office tomorrow. I'll be able to help you.” It was the Egyptian Ambassador!

Q: Oh, my goodness!

CLARK-BOURNE: He just closed his eyes to the fact that we had American passports and gave us visas. So, we flew to Egypt. My friend with three of his male friends met the four of us, so we saw Cairo and the Pyramids—had a wonderful time.

Then, my ladyfriends decided they wanted to go home. So, they decided just to fly to Paris and London and home. Well, I wanted to see Europe. I was out to see the world, so I took a bus up to Alexandria and got myself on a ship crossing the Mediterranean—third class, in the hold, with an Egyptian belly dance team. It was a rough crossing. I was the only person who didn't get seasick. I remember, one or two of the dancers got sick, and so they asked if they could teach me and if I'd fill in. I said, “Sure,” but then, the last night when they had the farewell party, so many people were under the weather, the officers asked if I would act as emcee. So I did that instead.

Q: It's like the classic story of Rebecca West learning how to belly dance when she was in Yugoslavia.

CLARK-BOURNE: I did not know that one! I don't remember too much about that because I didn't actually perform. At any rate, I wandered around Europe by bus, the cheapest way I could. I had been saving money all the time in Japan to get a Master's degree. Well, I used all of that money to travel. I figured that it was well worth it. I wandered around up through Italy and Switzerland and over to France. By this time, I was down to about 10 or 20 dollars. I met some University of Washington ladyfriends who had gotten jobs in Germany and France, and we all met there. We all got one little room because none of us had any money. We took turns sleeping: some slept in the daytime and some slept at night. I went to the American Embassy there, to the Military Attach#, because the government had promised me round-trip transportation. As I had not taken the return

transportation, I went to him and said, “You owe me this.” They also still owed me some salary. So, he got me a berth on a troop ship crossing the Atlantic, leaving from Belgium. After arriving in New York, I went to a fort near New York City to try to get the rest of the salary they owed me.

Q: Camp Jolmer(?) or Fort...?

CLARK-BOURNE: I don't know. They sent a telegram to someplace and they got the money for me. With that, I figured I had enough to explore the United States a little bit by bus. My sister was at the University of Ohio and I went to see her and stopped in several places and went home broke—home being Colorado.

Q: This was about 19...?

CLARK-BOURNE: 1949—almost 1950. I still wanted to get a Master's Degree, so I got in contact with one of my university professors at the University of Washington and said, “Do you know of any place I could go where I can get a fellowship?” Well, he had a pal at the University of Minnesota. They gave me a teaching fellowship. So, I went in January 1950, that spring term, on a teaching fellowship, to get a Master's Degree in mass communications.

Q: Mass Communications? What does that mean?

CLARK-BOURNE: It covers not only newspaper and writing, but radio—by this time, TV had started to come in. All kinds of communication. So, I went for the spring term and summer term and really worked very hard, getting my Master's in two terms.

In the summer or spring, a recruiter from USIA came to the University of Minnesota. I thought, “Wow, I'd like that. I could get back overseas.” So, I was interviewed and they sent me to take a physical. I finished my work at the University of Minnesota and they said they would get in touch with me. I went back to Colorado to visit my family for a few

weeks and heard nothing from anybody and thought, “Well, I'll go to Washington, DC”. I got to Washington and this was just the time when USIA was being taken out of the State Department and nobody could find where any of their files were. So, I quickly went to the Civil Service Administration, took a typing test, and got a job with the Panama Canal Company as a typist.

They soon discovered that I had some education and asked me to help balance the company's accounts with the US Treasury. While I was doing that, I went to the State Department and applied for a job and was offered one in the Office of Intelligence Research, in DRS, the Division for Research for the Soviet Union and East European Countries. Stan Wilcox was head of it at that time. I was brought on as an editor for the NIS, the National Intelligence Survey. I did that for two years.

Q: Could you explain what the National Intelligence Survey was?

CLARK-BOURNE: It was by country. People wrote these reports with all the information they had on their particular countries.

Q: It was sort of an encyclopedic thing: personalities, geography, landing beaches...

CLARK-BOURNE: That's right. Anything and everything.

Q: The idea being that, if a country came up, somebody could sit there and say, “Well, this is where we'll invade and these are the people we should contact.” It was a huge undertaking.

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, it was. I did that for two years. Then I was offered a job with a step increase—this was under Civil Service, you understand—in DRF: Division for Research for the Far East. Of course, I'd been in Japan for a couple of years and they wanted me to be Division Editor. That means editing all reports that were written. I did that until '56.

Q: These reports, what was your impression of the information that was coming in, how these things were prepared and...?

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, it was stuff that came in from post. The subjects would be whatever were requested from the various bureaus in the State Department. The bureaus would say, “We would like a report on such and which,” and you would gather all the information you could and put together a report.

Q: Did you find them useful?

CLARK-BOURNE: To be very honest, I wouldn't know. I hadn't worked in the Foreign Service or in the State Department. I had just worked there in Intelligence. So, I had really not too much knowledge of what went on.

Q: In this intelligence side of the State Department when you were there, could you give a little feeling about how it was constituted and what was the atmosphere of the people that you were meeting there?

CLARK-BOURNE: It was all Civil Service and, in those days, we were in State Annex One —that was before New State had been built. It was an apartment building on the corner of E and 23rd. The people with whom I worked in DRS were all college graduates, some with higher degrees in their various areas of specialty. For instance, for Finland, there was a Finnish guy who was the analyst. Hungary had a guy whose parents had come from Hungary. He had been born in the States, but he spoke Hungarian very well. They all knew the languages, by the way, in which they were working. This was true with all of the East European countries. In the Far East, it was more or less the same thing. Most of the people that I remember did have the languages. I worked just with them and their reports. I did not work with the outsiders with whom they may have worked.

Q: You were there from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: In DRS from '52 to '54. In DRF from '54 to '56. In '56, I was Wristonized.

Q: Could you explain what the Wristonization Program was?

CLARK-BOURNE: It was named after a gentleman named Mr. Wriston, who suggested they bring civil servants who could qualify into the Foreign Service as a way of expanding the Foreign Service. We had to take written and oral exams. I don't remember too much about the written exam, except that it took all day. The oral exam I remember for one stupid thing only. I was told to meet with a panel of people, walked into a room—it was a big room—and the people were seated at a table at the far end, near a window. I went in and sat down. I was smoking in those days, and I wanted a cigarette. I looked around, but didn't see any ashtrays. I thought, “Well, I'd better ask,” so I said, “Is it all right to smoke here.” One of the guys said, “Oh, yeah,” and he brought out an ashtray from the window sill behind a curtain. I'll never forget that one.

Q: One of the stories that used to go around of the test for the Foreign Service—this was when people were smoking a lot—was that they'd say, “Sure, you can smoke,” and then there wouldn't be an ashtray. They wanted to see how you responded.

CLARK-BOURNE: That's right. That's exactly what this was about. At any rate, I was accepted and my first post was Tehran.

Q: You were in Tehran from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '56 to '58. It was during the time of the Shah, during the time of Soroya. He was still married to Soroya.

Q: This was Mrs. Pahlavi.

CLARK-BOURNE: By the way, I had to fight to get into that job, because the Foreign Service did not think women should go to Islamic countries. I must have been difficult enough that they decided I could go. I was at the bottom of the totem pole in the Political Section. I was the only woman officer, not only in our embassy, but in the entire Diplomatic Corps. The only one.

Q: Talk a little bit about, as you saw it at that time, in 1956, about women officers in the Foreign Service. How did they treat you? I mean, you've already alluded to part of this, but maybe you got even more coming in and the whole thing.

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, not when I was coming in. In the Civil Service, of course, there was no problem. This was the first inkling I had that there was discrimination against women, and I fought it. As we go along, I'll tell you the experiences. I have run into a lot of them. But let's keep it in chronological sequence.

Q: Yes, absolutely. To start this off, could you tell me, who was the Ambassador and how did he operate?

CLARK-BOURNE: The Ambassador was Selden Chapin. Selden had his ward there, Hope Cooke, who became the Maharani of Sikkim. Hope was in high school, just finishing up. As the only woman, I sort of ended up a lot of the time as Hope's nanny, if you will. Being the only woman had its good points, too. The Iranian men are very gallant. They're sort of the Frenchmen of the Middle East. In no time at all, I got to know a lot of them. The Ambassador was very shrewd: he saw that I had entree that the men officers did not have. I would go to the US and European office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and there would be two or three Ambassadors sitting in the waiting room. I would not even have an appointment but when the head of the office would open the door and somebody would walk out, he'd say, “Kay, come on in.” I'd go in and deliver my message. I had absolute entree. Two of the other junior officers, the one in the Egyptian Embassy, the one in the Indian Embassy and I formed a Junior Officer's Club. They were all men, except me. We

had meetings once a week and we also met with various friends we'd made in the Foreign Ministry and the other ministries. That helped broaden my contacts also.

Being a woman there in other situations, of course, I did not have the entree that men had. Such as, for instance, visiting a mosque. One of my good friends was the wife of a member of the Parliament and we soon solved this. She'd been educated in Russia and Europe. I borrowed a chador and slippers from my housekeeper and I'd go with this lady and her friend. We'd go into the mosque or wherever I wanted to go. They always said, “Keep your mouth shut and don't talk with anybody” because they'll find out you're a foreigner. But these gals would be wearing regular saddle shoes and bobbie socks, so everybody thought they were the foreigners. The whole thing was quite amusing.

Q: What was the political situation at the time? What were you and the Political Section interested in?

CLARK-BOURNE: For me, it was a tale of a thousand nights. It was fantastic. We were very friendly with Iran. We had a huge Armish-MAAG set up there. I at one time had a lady visitor who was an American foreign correspondent, and the two of us were allowed to go with a Armish-MAAG battalion on a two-week trip out to the northern part of the country, where we camped out. They gave us our own tent and let us go off and do our own thing. That was interesting.

The first week I was there, it was just unbelievable. There were many social events. That week, Adenauer and a son or daughter came to visit the Shah.

Q: He was the Chancellor of...?

CLARK-BOURNE: West Germany. They invited the Diplomatic Corps to all receptions and they often would be followed by dinners (at 10 o'clock at night) for the Ambassadors and the big shots. And it was practically every night. I had not received all of my air freight and did not have a long dress. In those days, you wore long dresses. So, from the

Ambassador's wife's secretary, I borrowed a dress. She was a little bigger than I was and, as it was strapless, I had to pin it on. The first or second night I was there, we drove to the downtown palace which was walled in. There was a big, circular drive in front of it. We entered the gate and the entire drive was covered with Persian carpets, so you drove over the Persian carpets up to the front door. Then, when you entered, there was a circular staircase that went up to the second floor, to where the peacock throne room was. The reception was held in the peacock throne room, which was about a block long, covered with a carpet that had been specially woven for that room. All of the walls were covered with pieces of mirror and there were huge, gorgeous crystal chandeliers from Europe. At the far end of the room was the peacock throne, covered with gems, and two smaller thrones, one on either side. This was where we were served drinks.

While this was going on, the Chief of Protocol came up to me and said, “I understand you've just arrived. You should be presented to their Royal Highnesses.” So, I put out my cigarette, rolled down my gloves, and trotted down the hall after him. He took me into a room first where Soroya was sitting, surrounded by young courtiers. I was introduced and I knew I had to curtsy, so I grabbed my dress at the top and curtsied. She looked at me disdainfully and turned to one of the young men beside her. She never said a word. So, then I was taken down to another room where the Shah was, who was perfectly charming. We must have chatted for 20 or 30 minutes about all kinds of things. His English was excellent. He was a very, very nice person. We just talked about things generally—about where I was from, etc.

It was either parties down there or parties up at his summer place in the foothills in Shimron, where I had my house, or at all of the various embassies. It was something continuously—all the time, morning, noon, and night.

Q: As a political officer, what were your responsibilities?

CLARK-BOURNE: Mostly, at first, when I was assigned there, I was supposed to be the Biographic Officer. I was supposed to collect all the information on 100 big families, first families, and write reports. But as soon as the Ambassador discovered that I had entree to everybody, then my job mostly was, when he wanted to give them information or wanted to get information, to go back and forth between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then writing the reports.

Q: The Mossadegh period was over by that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: Oh, yes, that was in '52.

Q: So, we're really talking about the aftermath of this. What was the impression that you were getting from the other officers in the political section and what you were observing about the stability of the Shah?

CLARK-BOURNE: At that time, he seemed to be fairly stable. His twin sister, Ashraf, was thought by everyone to be quite venal. According to the rumors, she took 10 percent from any foreign business person who wanted to do business. She got 10 percent of the profits.

He, however, turned over a lot of the Pahlavi lands to villagers. In other words, at that time, he was thought to be quite good. The women, a lot of them, seemed to have more freedom. They were driving, some of them. Not all of them were wearing the chadors all the time. We in the Diplomatic Corps were often invited to affairs that the Shah had out in the desert, such as horse racing. He had a large stable of Arabs and he allowed us to ride them all, to keep them exercised. So, very often, I went riding out in the desert on one of the Shah's Arabs.

A friend of mine, as I mentioned before, was a member of Parliament, and his family owned a village south of Tehran and we often went down to the village. Every time they'd go, they'd take piles of gifts. When we arrived at the village, the elder would be sitting in the center of the square with all of his people behind him, and the member of Parliament

would be there with the elder and would be passing, as people came by, out the gifts. We were allowed to see all of this. It was quite benevolent is what I'm trying to say. I did not feel that there was any rancor against the Shah or the Pahlavis at that time.

Q: Did the political section have any connection with—I've never served in Iran, but I've heard about it—what was sort of the Bazaari class, the merchants?

CLARK-BOURNE: I think some of the economic section people did. I don't know whether I should say this one or not. We had a large CIA Section.

Q: At that time, particularly after Kermit Roosevelt and all that, Iran seemed to be a place where the CIA had a great deal of influence.

CLARK-BOURNE: We had a big section. There was a Colonel in charge. I don't remember his name. It was an East European name. They had contacts with all of the tribes such as Bakhtiari and the Qashqa'is. The Colonel would ask me, as the only woman officer in the Embassy, often to go with him to meetings with the Bakhtiari in their tents, where sometimes they would sit around smoking opium pipes. I've never used drugs in my life, but as part of my job, I had to participate in this. I'll never forget that. After we left there, I was walking down the street and everything was sort of hazy!

Q: I'm just trying to catch the atmosphere. Were the Mullahs anybody that we targeted as far as trying to get information?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not that I know of. As far as the political section was concerned, I don't think so. What CIA was doing, I don't know, other than contacting the tribes. They may well have been targeting Mullahs.

Q: During this time, '56 to '58, it was what one would call a rather tranquil time?

CLARK-BOURNE: It was quite tranquil, yes. We could get around quite easily. The Shah had a ski area in Ab Ali, which he let us use. When he'd come out to ski, everybody was

forced off the slopes. He was a fantastic skier. He'd only stay about 30 minutes or so. He had a lodge out there that he stayed in. Then we'd get back on the slopes.

We were allowed to drive all over the country. I remember driving south to Isfahan and Shiraz, although there was hardly any road across the desert. There were military checkpoints and the Ambassador told us to always stop and check in at every military checkpoint. At the time I was there, there were some AID people who were lost or stranded in the mountains. I remember that, but I don't remember much about it. I do remember once driving south with a friend in the embassy and his wife and little boy. We got down to Shiraz and there was a tomb out away from the city we wanted to go see. I was driving—it was my car. When we arrived at the tomb, the wife said that she would sit in the car with the little boy and Dick, my friend, and I went over to see it. But in no time at all, she was there with the little boy and it turned out that she had locked the car doors and I'd left the keys in the car. Here we were, out in the middle of the desert. But we had passed a Qashqa'i encampment, so my friend Dick hiked over there to see if he could get an implement of some kind so we could jimmy a window open and get into the car. Well, he did and all the Qashqa'is followed him back. We got into the car and when I got back to the Embassy, I told the Ambassador about our experience. He said, “Kay, do you know what you just did?” I said, “No.” He said, “You just taught a whole tribe of Qashqa'is how to come into Tehran and rob all the cars!” But they were very friendly. It was a peaceful time.

Q: What was the feeling there at that time towards the Soviet Union?

CLARK-BOURNE: By the Iranians?

Q: And by the American Embassy.

CLARK-BOURNE: By the American Embassy, there was obviously a certain tension. The Russian Embassy had a huge, high wall around it. I can remember, at that time, a son of one of our officers, a high school kid, climbed over that wall. The Ambassador sent the

entire family out within 24 hours, as fast as he could. So, you can see that there was some tension.

I probably was the only person in the Embassy who ever got inside that compound because of our Junior Diplomats Club. We took turns hosting and they did once, so I got inside then. I can't tell you anything about the Irani-Soviet relationship.

Q: In '56 to '58, did the Israeli-Palestinian business impact at all? There was the Suez Crisis during this time. Did it have any reflection in Iran at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: Within the country itself, I don't remember. As far as we were concerned, in traveling in and out and getting around, it was a problem. I had taken a trip at one time, I think over to Bahrain, and bought a chest. I brought it into the port in Iran, in the Gulf, and decided to leave it there until I left, to have it shipped out when I left. I remember having horrible problems with that. I remember that, by plane, sometimes we'd have to go round about to go home. But, as far as the Iranians themselves were concerned, among my immediate friends, I never heard too much about it.

Q: You left there in 1958, right?

CLARK-BOURNE: That's right.

Q: And where to?

CLARK-BOURNE: I was sent to The Netherlands. In those days—I imagine it's still the same now, I don't know—all officers had to have consular officer training. Although I was a political cone officer, I was sent to the Consulate General in Rotterdam as special consular affairs officer.

Q: You served from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: From '59 to '61. Bob Wilson was CG then. In those days, we had a lot of American shipping and Rotterdam was the biggest port in Europe. The captain of every American ship that came in had to report to the Consulate General and had to leave his papers there. They were given to him only upon departure after he had paid the port fees and fulfilled everything required. There were a lot of ships that came in all the time. Seamen and shipping was one of our basic jobs.

Of course, American citizen welfare was involved. And there were lots of American tourists in Europe, as you know. I'll never forget one day. A little old lady came in and said that she'd lost her sister. They'd been traveling, I believe, up in Scandinavia, and had come down to Holland. She wanted to come to Rotterdam and her sister wanted to go to someplace else—Amsterdam, maybe. So, they split up and were supposed to get together in Rotterdam. The sister never arrived. Fortunately, I knew the manager of the biggest hotel there. He was one of my boyfriends. I called him and told him to keep his eye out and called other people and reported it to the police. A day or so later, this hotel manager friend called and said, “She's here. I've got her.” She'd arrived, so we got the two little old ladies together. I remember, they came in bearing a cake to show their appreciation. But, mostly, problems were with younger people.

Q: Was Rotterdam and Holland...Later, it had the reputation of being sort of the sin capital of Western Europe.

CLARK-BOURNE: Oh, really?

Q: Well, I mean, Amsterdam more than Rotterdam. Rotterdam was a little more business. Was this a problem? I'm thinking, particularly at this period, it was a pretty straight time for Americans. Were young people getting into trouble?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not at all in Rotterdam that I can recall. Outstanding things that happened to me had nothing to do with the young people. One of the ship captains who

came in asked me out to dinner one night. We went out with the administrative officer and his girlfriend. After dinner the captain and I decided to leave early. The other two were going to a movie. We got into a taxi and the gentleman collapsed on me. While we were riding the taxi, he said, “Oh, we've got to stop someplace. My left arm has no feeling. I'm having a heart attack.” We got out of the taxi, got into a building, where I was trying to find a phone, and he passed out on the ground. By this time, I'd gotten the hospital and said we were coming over and a couple of Dutchmen said, “Here, we'll help you get him into a taxi, and we'll go with you.” So, they were in the backseat with him. We got to the hospital and, at the hospital, they said he'd died. We had to stay there until the police came. The police interviewed the two Dutchmen first—by this time, it was three or four in the morning—and let them go.

Then, they interviewed me and said, “Who is this gentleman? All his pockets are empty.” The Dutchmen, obviously, had fleeced him while they were sitting in the backseat. I let them know this. I said, “The gentleman had a billfold and everything when we were in the restaurant.” Then, I told them who I was. They obviously didn't believe me. The Dutch at that time had no women in their Foreign Service. We're talking about 1960. So, I said, “You come with me over to our Consulate General and I will get you his ship's papers and all the information you want.” So, they did. They escorted me over there, at five in the morning. We were in a building up above a store that had apartments in it. Our Administrative Officer was living in one of those. I woke him up to let us in and to help me get the safes open and get the information. But, other than that, it was fairly routine.

One problem that comes to mind that I had with younger people was a young gentleman, who was a transvestite, I guess. His passport had a lady's name in it and he was in some trouble with somebody there about that.

It was a good place to be. You got to travel around Europe quite a bit on the weekends. You know, you can drive around Holland in one day. So, I got to see a great deal of Europe when I was there. But I hated the weather—it rains all the time. And the culture

was sort of dull, after Iran. It was too much like US culture. I was supposed to be there for four years. After two years, a telegram came around, asking for Hindi-Urdu language training volunteers. I immediately applied because I knew the sun would shine in India—right? So, I did that for the next year.

Q: Where did you take your Hindi-Urdu training?

CLARK-BOURNE: At FSI.

Q: Here in Washington?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes.

Q: I've often wondered, when they have Hindu-Urdu. A little later, almost at the same time, I took Serbo-Croatian, but these two are very similar languages. It's the same alphabet and a few different words. How about Hindi-Urdu?

CLARK-BOURNE: There are similarities, but they're different also.

Q: They're quite different, aren't they?

CLARK-BOURNE: Quite different, yes. This class was mostly Hindi.

Q: What did they do, concentrate on Hindi?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, and we had an Indian teacher. There were only four or five of us in the class. One was from the military. They were not all from the State Department, I remember. It was very difficult for me. I was still smoking in those days and I'd been driving home one day and heard on the car radio that the Brits had come out with this study showing how dangerous it was. I decided to quit. I'd been planning to stop and buy a package of cigarettes. I only had, I think, two left. I got home, put the package of the two cigarettes on my cocktail table and they sat there for a year. But, for the first month or so...

Q: Oh, yes! I remember, about this time, I quit, too. For a lot of us, it was not easy.

CLARK-BOURNE: Oh, no, not at all. But I think it was more difficult on my classmates than on me because I had to have my hands doing something all the time, I was playing with keys and everything like that. But it worked.

It was Hindi. I don't remember any Urdu. Urdu is more closely related to Farsi. The point being that, although I did not have an onward assignment, I think most of the others did, and they probably were going to India.

Q: Were you getting anything from your training about India, either from the teachers or from area studies?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, I don't remember being given any area studies. We were full-time in Hindi language. The instructor, frankly, was very obnoxious. I found later that the urban Indian very often act in a superior manner. He feels that he knows a great deal more than those stupid Americans. This was sort of his attitude. We felt he was looking down on us all the time. The crazy thing about all of this was that, after spending a whole year at that, I was assigned to Bombay, where I never used it.

Q: This was so often the case. You were in Bombay from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '62 to '67.

Q: '62 to '67.

CLARK-BOURNE: Our Consular District included Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Goa. In Gujarat, they speak Gujarati. In Maharashtra, they speak Marathi. In Goa, it's some South Indian language. In Madhya Pradesh, they did speak Hindi but it was so far away that I only got over there once or twice a year. So, I just didn't get to use it. Most of

the city people all spoke English. It had been an English colony. So, it didn't matter that much, to be very honest. If I needed an interpreter, my local employees could interpret.

Q: From '62 to '67, you were in Bombay. What was your position?

CLARK-BOURNE: The first two years, I was a consular officer, head of the Consular Section. Then, the rest of the time, I was a political officer, head of the Political Section.

Q: Who was the Consul General at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: I spent last night trying to remember names. Milton Rewinkel was the first one and Dan Braddock was the second one.

Q: From your perspective, what were American relations with the Indians during the '62 to '67 period?

CLARK-BOURNE: Oh, very good. There were no problems at all. We had Peace Corps. We had AID. We had everything there. We were experimenting on increasing production of wheat in, I believe, the Philippines, and we were bringing the results over for India. We helped them really increase their production of wheat. In fact, I'll never forget it, because there was an Indian woman who wrote a book. In it, she had interviewed a farmer and she said, “Now that you're getting twice as much produce to sell, what are you doing with all the extra money?” He said, “Well, I don't need any extra money. I have a bowl of rice for breakfast, a bowl of rice for lunch, and a bowl or rice for dinner. What do I need money for?” I'll never forget that. It's so different from the average American outlook on life.

But the relations were good. I had no problems whatsoever. I had many, many Indian friends there. As a political officer, I was also a labor officer. I met with the major labor union officials in Bombay, who were socialists, but I was taken in by them. They confided in me on everything.

Q: During this time, I guess, Nehru was still the Prime Minister, wasn't he?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, I guess so. Chester Bowles was Ambassador part of the time, and John Kenneth Galbraith was Ambassador part of the time.

Q: These were two of the stars of the Kennedy period in particular. Did you have any reflection of these two strong personalities?

CLARK-BOURNE: Chester Bowles was really liked by the Indians. He had two different tours there. Galbraith was something else. I remember, as consular officer, I was always the control officer for ship visits. And COMIDEASTFOR, Commander of the Middle East Forces...

Q: Was stationed in Bahrain.

CLARK-BOURNE: ...in Bahrain, would drop by quite often. I remember Galbraith coming down once by train. I think he took over seven cars on the train for all of his friends and relatives. He arrived in Bombay and the COMIDEASTFOR had come down on his flagship. Then there was a destroyer.

Q: It was a seaplane tender or something.

CLARK-BOURNE: You're right, it was a seaplane tender.

Q: Large Bay, I think, was one of them. I served in Dhahran at one time and we had these two rather small ships.

CLARK-BOURNE: Galbraith announced that he and his wife were going to stay on the captain's ship during the visit. In that day, a woman staying overnight on a ship was practically unknown. The captain wasn't very happy, but felt that he had to acquiesce to the Ambassador. My problem was that Galbraith was almost seven feet tall and the bunks on ships were short. I remember sending a junior officer down to the bazaar to find big

cushions to pile up at the end of a bunk so that he could sleep on it. But he absolutely insisted. That's the kind of person he was. And yet, he wrote magnificently. We loved to read his cables and his telegrams. We'd look forward to them. He really was very talented. But there were two sides to the character.

Q: You were there during the assassination of President Kennedy. How did that...?

CLARK-BOURNE: That I will always remember because I had set out in my car with a bunch of friends to drive up to Kathmandu. That's quite a drive, let me tell you. I was driving a Mercedes 190 in those days, which are pretty sturdy cars, and I remember stopping along the way for servicing. To get up over the border, AID at that time was building a road that went from the border and over the mountains into Kathmandu. I remember that the road en route to the border went out of existence at one point. We tried to cross a stream and got stuck and had to hike to the nearest village to get them to pull us out. Somehow, we got in contact with AID. They sent a Jeep down to get us out. We got over the border up to Kathmandu. While there in the hotel, I came down one morning for breakfast and was met by one of the employees, saying, “Your President has just been assassinated.” So, of course, we dashed over to the Embassy to find out what it was all about. I was up there for another week before I returned to India.

Q: You were also there during the China-Indian War, weren't you?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes I was and this was a problem, although the troops were over in the East and we were in the West. We had a blackout and I was ordered to get all the Peace Corps people down out of Gujarat and to Bombay to be evacuated. I remember going up to Gujarat to find them and arriving back in Bombay during a total blackout. But they managed to land the plane. My former husband—my fianc# at that time—came out to the airport to meet me. We had to drive back to Bombay without headlights. But that didn't last for too long.

Q: In a way, that was sort of a high point, wasn't it, of Indian-American relations?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, I think you're right. It probably was, at least at that time.

Q: As a consular officer, did you have any particular consular problems?

CLARK-BOURNE: This is where we did have trouble with young people.

Q: This was the height of what we'd call "the Hippie Movement," of young people going off as far as they could and running out of money.

CLARK-BOURNE: What they were doing was taking cars into Nepal and exchanging them for drugs and then bringing the drugs down to sell in India. They'd often camp on the beaches near Bombay. I remember working with the Brits trying to get it under control.

As consular officer before I became political officer, we had shipping problems. I'll never forget one involving one of the big shipping companies, a Greek company named Kulakundis employing mostly American seamen, had gone bankrupt. When they arrived in Bombay port, they couldn't leave and their ships were stalled in several ports in the Middle East. The Consulate General was told one night, at about 10 or 11 at night, that the seamen on the ship were revolting. They'd locked all the officers up in the saloon. I found out about it and called the Consul General. The Consul General said that, as a woman, I couldn't go out on that ship. And I said, "I certainly can," but I promised him I'd take my fianc# with me. We got out and had to climb up the Jacob's ladder to get on. By the way, I had learned in The Netherlands that seamen are respectful of women, but not necessarily of men. This is something that the Foreign Service learned and started assigning women these jobs. I got to the saloon and climbed up on a table and addressed these people. I said, "Alright, you guys, we want you to come ashore. I'm going to find a place for you to stay and then I'm going to find a way of getting you home by air. I want you to let the officers alone." And they went right along with it. There was a YMCA where I put everybody up. Many telegrams went back and forth and we got a chartered plane

and finally got them out. They were most grateful. I got letters from unions for months thereafter, thanking me.

Q: What had been the problem on the ship?

CLARK-BOURNE: They hadn't been paid for two weeks. Kulakundis had gone bankrupt and couldn't pay them. So, that was one of the high points as a consular officer.

Q: How about with the young Americans? Were you having people in jail and things of this nature with drugs? How did the Indians handle this?

CLARK-BOURNE: I don't remember them being in jail. I do remember having consulted with the Indians on how to get them out of the country. That's what they mainly wanted. I spent time and effort contacting relatives and Heaven knows what, trying to get them out. It was a long time ago. Some of them may have been put in jail. I just don't remember.

Q: As a political officer, what were your responsibilities?

CLARK-BOURNE: As I mentioned, reporting on labor, as well as political affairs. For instance, they had elections when I was there. I traveled to all the four provinces to interview people from the various political parties and sent in reports. We predicted the outcome of the elections in our consular district and were 100 percent accurate.

Q: What was your impression of the Indian political system from the perspective of Bombay?

CLARK-BOURNE: At that time, it seemed to work. The parties were there. They were all allowed to operate. It was what we would call a democratic setup. They had their elections.

Q: Did you find that you had pretty good access to the political leaders in the area?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes. There was no problem with that at all. Good access with Indians of all kinds. They had, of course, a big movie industry. The Ivory-Merchant Production Company had its studio there and I was very good friends with Jim Ivory and Ismail Merchant. So, I got to know all the movie colony people.

Q: The Indian movie is so different than the American movie. Bombay, of course, probably turned out more movies than Hollywood, I guess.

CLARK-BOURNE: I would not doubt it. They were horribly long and they had to include everything. We'd go occasionally to them. But, of course, the Ivory-Merchant films were made for Westerners, so they were not that way.

Q: Did you ever get involved in anything equivalent to turf disputes? Were American movies coming in?

CLARK-BOURNE: I never saw anything like that, no. Maybe up in Delhi, they ran into something like that, but I didn't see anything like that.

Q: Were there any other major events?

CLARK-BOURNE: I traveled around quite a bit. I mentioned that, while I was in Tehran, Hope Cooke was there. In fact, when I was there, she had her coming-out party, which was a fantastic evening. I'll never forget it. It started at 10 o'clock at night and they had fireworks at midnight. At the conclusion of the fireworks, there was a display of a peacock spreading its tail, with her name written across the sky. She and “Aunt Mary,” Selden Chapin's wife, had gone up to India and obtained the fireworks. I think that's where she met her future husband, the Maharajah of Sikkim. We partied and danced all night and then had breakfast and swam in their swimming pool. It went on most of the next day. Hope was married in Sikkim while I was in Bombay and I was invited. I remember flying across India and up to Sikkim—was quite an experience.

But, back to the Consular District, I can't remember anything really outstanding.

Q: You were engaged there?

CLARK-BOURNE: I don't know whether you want to know about this or not. I was engaged. My former husband was an American businessman. His family company is the Singer Sewing Machine Company and he covered the whole Middle East. We went back to the States to get married. I took leave and wanted him to come to Washington to meet the India desk officer. Carol Laise was the India desk officer and she said, “Kay, are you crazy?” I said, “Why?” She said, “Don't you know women officers aren't allowed to be married?” I said, “No, why?” She said, “They feel that a husband would not follow his wife around the world.” I said, “My husband has more foreign office posts than we do!” She said, “That's beside the point. You'd better get out of town fast, before they pick up your diplomatic passport.” So, we dashed off back to India.

Milton Rewinkel was still Consul General and he said, “Kay, why would you want to keep working when you're married?” Well, the memos went back and forth, because I was fighting it. Milton said I could stay on only as a local employee. They kicked me out of my apartment, which was no problem, because my former husband had his apartment. Of course, I received no allowances. Then Milton left and Dan Braddock came on as CG. Dan was very nice and very understanding and tried to back me up. He sent cables, but didn't get very far.

Washington then said that I could stay on for another six months if I went to Delhi as consular officer. Well, I was a political cone officer by then and I did not want to ruin that, so I absolutely refused. I told Dan, “I'm going to take leave” and gave him my leave addresses and went off to visit my brother in California. While I was there, an old friend of mine from Tehran who was in the Personnel Department—the same guy I went down to Shiraz with—called and said, “They're taking up your case and they're suggesting that they'll keep you on in a Civil Service position at the lowest rank possible in the

Department," although I would still be a Foreign Service officer. I went back to DC and tried to fight it out but didn't succeed. So I had to leave the Department.

I went up to New York, where I had a second career, first with Coopers and Lybrand, one of the big eight accounting firms. They had acquired an employee benefits company. As they had hundreds of offices around the States and abroad, they wanted to sell their accounting clients on employee benefits: stock-sharing plans, health plans, retirement plan. Connected with that would be letting the employees know what their benefits were. As I had majored in communications, they interviewed me and said, "We don't really know what's going to be involved and we don't know anything about you. We'll take you on for at least six months. After that, we'll review the whole situation. We want you to figure out how to set up an employee benefits communication operation." They gave me a fairly low salary, but said, "If everything works out after six months, we'll reevaluate your salary."

I decided to take Coopers and Lybrand's benefit plans to write my first employee booklets. They had five or six and I studied all of the technical documents for their plans. Then, I hired somebody to design the booklets. We did a booklet for each plan and boxed them. In six months, I took that in and said, "This is what I intend to do for your clients," and they loved it. So, they immediately raised my salary to more than I'd been making when I left the State Department. I hired a staff and we went to work. We had big clients such as Coca-Cola. I traveled around the country getting their business. Computers were in by then and we started a computerized employee benefits statement for employees that said, "If you retire by age 65 this is what you get. If you are disabled at such and such an age, this is what you get." It had the logo of the company and I sold it to a lot of companies. Coca-Cola, I think, was the first one to go for it.

Then, George B. Buck, which was involved just with employee benefits, stole me away from Coopers and Lybrand. They gave me a lot more money.

All this time, I'd been keeping in contact with the State Department. I had left in 1967. In 1972, a letter came to all the women who'd been forced out, saying that we could come back in at the grade and salary that we had when we left, or, if we had since been working, they would match that. Well, they couldn't match mine, because I was making more than the Secretary of State. There were lots of letters and cables going back and forth. I had to have my security clearance updated. Three years later, in 1975, they still had not updated my security check, which only involved living in two places 10 blocks apart, and working in two offices five blocks apart. Carol Laise was then assigned to be Director General.

Q: Director General.

CLARK-BOURNE: I remember sending her a letter, congratulating her. I said, “P.S.: could you-” Two days later, I got a telephone call, saying my security clearance was ready. They'd been hoping that I'd go away. So, then came the battle with the Department. They finally said, “Well, we'll bring you back only at the top of an FS-01.” They were not going to bring me into the Senior Service, which, if they were going to match my salary, they should have done.

But, I liked the Foreign Service. I liked the way of life. I liked traveling. By this time, my former husband and I had split up, although we were still very good friends and still are. I got married when I was too old. I was 40 and wanted to do my own thing. And he understood. He was very nice.

I got back in the Foreign Service. First, they brought me in, in 1975, to the Task Force for Resettling the Indo-Chinese, which was headed by Julia Taft. I was the liaison with the press and Congress. That was while they were trying to find a job for me.

Q: Let's talk about that for a minute. What was the situation that caused this?

CLARK-BOURNE: A lot of them were coming and, as I remember, most of them went down around the Gulf. A lot of them were fishermen.

Q: We're really talking about the end of the Vietnamese War, where South Vietnam had collapsed. There were many people coming out by boat and all this. The problem was resettling. We felt we had an obligation to do something about this. You say you were working as a liaison. What were the problems of dealing with the Congress? What were the issues?

CLARK-BOURNE: The issues were primarily that a lot of these people were fishermen. They were settling down around the Gulf and the American fishermen down there objected to them. They didn't want them around and they would go to the Congressmen.

Q: How did we respond?

CLARK-BOURNE: As I remember, we were still trying to get them places to live down there. That's where they wanted to be. I wasn't there very long. This was only a temporary job until they found me a place in the Department. I don't think I was there for more than four or five months.

Q: Then where did you go?

CLARK-BOURNE: Then I was brought in to OES—Office of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs as Deputy Director of the Office of Fisheries Affairs. The DAS at that time was Roz Ridgway. This was one of the most fascinating jobs I've ever had. I didn't know the front end of a fish from the back end when I got in there. I was there for only four days when Roz Ridgway came in and said, “Kay, we've got a problem. We've been trying to renegotiate our North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty.” (This was the oldest treaty we had. It was from the early 1900s - 1906 or so.) She said, “We started last spring. This treaty involves four countries: Japan, the Soviet Union, Canada, and The United States. After several weeks last spring, we were deadlocked. We have to

get this renegotiated by the end of this year, or we've lost the treaty. Next week, we're meeting again. The Japanese delegation came in and said they would not participate unless there were an independent chairman for the negotiation. In the spring, the chief of the US delegation had chaired the negotiations and the Japanese did not like that. So, I would like you to chair it."

As I say, I knew nothing about fish. I had never been in a negotiation before. I didn't know anything. I got a book of Robert's Rules of Order and all weekend I read everything I could in the files of past treaties. I worked night and day. The negotiation was held in one of the main negotiating rooms in the State Department. The four delegations were seated around a big, circular table. To my left, fortunately, was the Secretary of the North Pacific Fur Seals Committee, which had been set up to run things in the interim. Above me were the translators in their booths and there were microphones on the table.

So, I started out. I'll never forget—the Japanese delegation was straight across the table from me and the Japanese Ambassador kept smiling and nodding his head in encouragement. Whenever I had a question, I would say to the guy next to me, the Secretary, "What should I do now?" I soon learned that the most important negotiating tool is absolute silence. I learned a lot of things. At the first coffee break, one of the guys from the translating booth came down and said, "Will you please signal to us when you want the microphones opened. Fortunately, this morning, when you first started, they were closed but we got them open." He told me a little red light on the table signaled whether they were open. Well, we accomplished our mission. At the end of two weeks, we had a new treaty.

Q: What did we want and what did the Soviets and Canadians and Japanese want?

CLARK-BOURNE: All everybody wanted was one, conservation of the species and, two, to be able to harvest the species. The seals migrate from off of Southern California up to the waters off Alaska. Both the Japanese and the Russians were fighting to take larger catches. Our concern was more for preserving the species.

I learned a lot out of it. There were several interesting things. One is that this species of fur seal is found in only one other place and that's off the coast of Namibia. The second is that those seals that are harvested are skinned in one place only—I believe it's in South Carolina. The Namibians send theirs there. Then, the pelts usually go off to European markets. The meat goes to mink farms in the US to feed the mink. The Namibians were starting to harvest and wanted to send their animals to our plant. We said they had to prove that they were harvested humanely. For the members of the treaty, “humane” meant the young seals were hit on the head and stunned and then their throats were slit. This way, they don't feel anything. It ended up that we sent Aleut fur seal hunters from Alaska down to Namibia to teach them how to harvest humanely. They then were approved to send their animals here to be skinned.

Q: Did you find that the people you were dealing with were...I'm thinking that, often, the Canadians prove to be the most difficult people to negotiate with.

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, it depends upon the particular subject. On this one, they were no problem at all. I had other people doing the North Atlantic Treaties, where the Canadians were much more involved. For instance, you take salmon. The salmon species in our rivers were practically nil by this time. We had a fisheries operation in New England where we were breeding them and planting them in the rivers to try to regenerate the species. They would then migrate out to sea and go up along the coast of Nova Scotia. Then the Canadians would get them. Of the first bunch that we put in, I think only seven ever came back because they harvested them all. So, this was one of our big battles.

We also had battles on our Great Lakes Treaty on harvesting. Eels was one of our problems up there. I also sat on the North Pacific Fisheries Council. We worked very closely with NMFS, the National Marine Fishery Service, over in the Department of Commerce. We've got these Fisheries Management Councils in New England, the Gulf, etc. I also worked on tuna fisheries. They were a major problem.

Q: This was Ecuador and that area?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, the South Pacific. Our major problem, by the way, was with American fishermen—not other countries. I flew around the world with Roz Ridgway on various treaty negotiating missions. Every time we would start a negotiation, we'd get together with our own team, which comprised all the fisheries, such as seiners and the trawlers, canners, and frozen food companies, as well as the American Indians in the Northern Pacific because we have treaties with them that come first. We've had them since the 19th century. Of course, there were also representatives from the Commerce and Interior Departments. Everyone of our teams comprised 50 or 60 people. We'd spend more time negotiating with our teams than we ever did with the other countries.

American fishermen are pirates. Right now, you're probably reading about how so much of the fishing in the North Atlantic has been decimated. The American fishermen claim that's not true because they want to keep fishing. In about 1975 the Law of the Sea Treaty joined, and that's when we went out to the 12-mile limit and 200-mile economic zone. The tuna fishermen would take their boats inside the 12-mile limits of countries in the South Pacific and often they would then be confiscated. Then the American taxpayer had to pay a lot of money to get them out. Most of our treaties limit fishing on the various species to certain windows and then only certain numbers could be taken. It was a continual battle. The fisheries management groups tried very hard, but the fishermen always won out.

Q: Why did the fishermen have such a strong lobby?

CLARK-BOURNE: This was their sustenance. This was where they made all their money.

Q: I mean, they were a fairly small proportion of voters or something like that.

CLARK-BOURNE: But then look at all the business people who were involved with fish, such as tuna canners or salmon canners. There are lots of business people involved.

Q: I assume that the Congress people from California and Washington, Oregon, and New England would be on you all the time.

CLARK-BOURNE: Absolutely. But it was an interesting time. For instance, we had our meetings on fur seals in Moscow and in Tokyo and in Ottawa and in the States. We got to do a lot of traveling and I enjoyed it.

Q: How did Roz Ridgway operate as you saw her there? I've heard the story that, every time she got into trouble and something happened, they kept throwing her back into fish all the time. I think she ended up dealing with fish a number of times in her career.

CLARK-BOURNE: She may have, I don't know. When she was stationed in South America or Central America, I think she had something to do with fish there.

She was a marvelous person to work with. In all of our various negotiations, she always led the delegation. I think I mentioned the complexity of our own delegation, where everybody had to be represented. She could mediate beautifully among all of them. She'd let everybody say their thing and get on to other people and somehow she made everybody happy. We always came to an agreement on our position before we went out to negotiate with the other countries.

Q: How about in dealing with other countries?

CLARK-BOURNE: The same way—just really top notch. Everybody respected her very, very much. The countries that I worked with were mostly Canada, Japan and the Soviet Union. We traveled together to all of these places. It seemed like my entire tour was spent mostly abroad. All the other countries highly respected her. We never had any problems.

Q: Did you find that in these negotiations, did the other countries have sort of their professional fish people, or were they usually Foreign Ministry?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, they had the same kind of delegations we did. Their professional fish people were represented as well as members of their government. Ours was complicated a little bit, in that, as I mentioned before, we had the 19th century fisheries agreements with various Pacific Northwest Indians. Those all had to be taken into consideration. But that was primarily in setting up our position on our side, not in dealing with the other countries. I told you about the very first one that I was involved in and how supportive the Japanese were. It was an interesting time. As I say, when I got in, I didn't know the front end of a fish from the back end, but I sure learned.

Q: You left fisheries when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '77.

Q: And then where did you go?

CLARK-BOURNE: In '77, I was assigned to Lagos, Nigeria as Political Counselor. That was a fantastic time to be in Nigeria.

Q: You were in Lagos from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: From '77 through '79 — three years. At that time, General Obasanjo was head of state. It was a military government. He made the decision to step down and to set up an elected government. He sent representatives to a number of countries in the world to look into the types of government they had. They were mostly oil-producing countries because that was and is the greatest source of Nigerian income. They liked our form of government the best so he set up a committee to draft a constitution. They were meeting down the street from our Embassy. They came and used our library continuously and were always coming in and asking questions and asking for advice. I'll never forget one night. I was awakened at two in the morning at my home and one of the guys from the committee said, “Kay, we've got a real problem. You've got to help us.” I said, “What's that?” They said, “What happens in the United States when the House of Representatives

doesn't agree with the Senate?" So, I explained the joint committee system and after they left, it dawned on me that none of this is in our constitution. Our constitution's very general, but they had to have every single detail put into their constitution. They decided to have two legislative branches in each of their states—they had at least 12 states at that time.

Q: So they were going to have a Federal Republic as opposed to a unified...Of course, Nigeria is a vast country. Were they going to keep a federal system?

CLARK-BOURNE: They asked me to bring in experts to go around the country and explain to the people in all the states how, in our country, the states related to the federal government. So, we did. We brought in professors and people like that.

When it came to forming parties and having elections, other problems arose. Large numbers of the population in Nigeria were illiterate. They ended up with five parties and decided to have symbols for each party. The voting mechanism was a problem. They did not have electricity in a large part of the country. So, we brought in a firm from Chicago to erect voting machines that were mechanical that could accommodate the party symbols. The elections went on fine. The elected government went into office. Obasanjo stepped down and retired to his farm. I left shortly thereafter the election. After I got back to the States, before going on to my next assignment, I went skiing in the Rockies. We stopped at a rest stop and I picked up a newspaper. There it had the news on the front page that the Nigerian elected government had been overthrown by the military. There would been a military coup. All I could think of was, "What did we miss? What did we do wrong?" I came to the conclusion that we didn't stress that the chief of our military is a civilian—the elected President. However, I don't think that would have made any difference. They've got the problem of too many ethnic groups.

Q: I think this is one of the problems of the Americans. Here, Nigeria has a coup, and you as the American representative say, "What did we do wrong?" You can build these things,

but it really took a couple centuries for our system to develop and it's still going through the process.

Could you talk a little about American representation there? Who was the Ambassador? Did we have any Consulates and any other programs going?

CLARK-BOURNE: During the three years I was there, we had two ambassadors: Don Easum and Steve Low. One DCM was Parker Wyman. We had consulates in Ibadan, Kaduna, and one out in the East. One of the officers in the Political Section, not too long after I arrived, asked to be sent up to Ibadan as Consul. Of course, you know, now they've closed most of those and the capital has moved to Abuja. They were working on having the capital in Abuja when I was there, but years went by before it was actually moved up. But I believe our Embassy is still in Lagos.

Q: When you got there, it was a military rule. Did you feel that the country was going to be able to move into a new mode, into a civilian role again? What was our way of looking at the situation in Nigeria, that the military seems to step in a lot?

CLARK-BOURNE: Of course, when the Brits had moved out, they'd had civilian rule for a while before the Obasanjo government came in. We firmly believed they should try again. Nigeria, as you know, is the largest country in Africa. One out of every four Africans is a Nigerian. It has a number of universities, whereas many of the other states in Africa don't. So, although there were lots of uneducated people, there were lots of educated people too—very knowledgeable. And the Nigerians, in general, reminded me of Americans. We used to say when I was there that, at any given time, 50 million people would be selling something to the other 50 million. They were all entrepreneurs. The feeling was that this was what the people wanted and this was why Obasanjo did it.

Q: How did we view the ethnic divisions of Nigeria? Did we see this as something that could be, as a system, made to work? What were the prime causes of trouble over ethnic...?

CLARK-BOURNE: The same as in all African countries. The same as in Yugoslavia. The same as in Ireland and England. These people each had their own customs and religions and felt that they should be the ones running the country, or at least their areas. It's a chronic problem. I think there were over 50 different ethnic groups. The three biggest ones were the Northern Muslims, the Yorubas in the west, and the Ibos in the east. Of course, you know about the war with the Ibos?

Q: The Biafran War, yes. When you were there, had the Biafran problem been more or less resolved? Was it something that everybody remembered?

CLARK-BOURNE: Of course everyone remembered it, but they were at peace. They allowed us to travel every place. There were no daily confrontations and everyone was going about their own business.

Dealing as a Political Officer with the Nigerians was very interesting for me. I had government quarters and I had a guest house, which most of the other government quarters did not have. So, when we had distinguished visitors, they usually stayed in my guest house. If I wanted to have a reception for them, a Nigerian would not accept an invitation just because I was a political officer, or First Secretary in the Embassy. They only accepted invitations from people they knew. So, I learned very soon that, when this would happen, to hand-carry my invitations to the invitees. Of course, at the beginning, I didn't know all the people that were on a list. But, in no time at all, I got to know them. Even then, I'd tell them to think about it and I'd come back to see what their answer was, so I could see them again. This way, I could assure attendance. But you could not assure attendance just by the person you asked. He might show up with five grandkids and two uncles. You never knew. I don't care what kind of a function it was. So, you had to learn to

adjust for that. And we had lots of distinguished visitors when I was there. People such as Mohammed Ali stayed in my place.

Q: The world champion boxer?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes. Vice President Mondale stayed in my place. Charlie Diggs. Remember Charlie Diggs?

Q: Yes, he was a Congressmen from Chicago.

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes. They were all interesting in their own way. The Nigerian ladies went mad over Mohammed Ali. Every time he'd step out of the compound or walk down the street, he'd be surrounded by women. It was interesting. Because of the Nigerian personality, I got to know an awful lot of people and they became very good friends of mine.

Q: As a political officer—you were mentioning that you had to sort of get to know people—how did this...I'm interested in not just Nigeria, but how would a political officer, a Political Counselor, work in Nigeria?

CLARK-BOURNE: The same as in any country. You get your directives from the Department: go in and tell them what our position is on such and such an issue in the United Nations; go in and tell them what we think about South Africa. Or we would get telegrams in, saying, “We need more information on some of these topics,” so you'd go talk with people, chat with them, invite them over, go out to dinner, and try to get the information as easily as you could.

Q: Did you find it a pretty open society?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, very open. In Nigeria, like most African countries, women sort of run everything. They run the markets. You do see some men in the fields, but they were mostly women.

Q: What about in the ministries, newspapers, universities? What was the role of women there?

CLARK-BOURNE: I don't remember. I don't think there were very many in the newspapers or universities, although there were some university teachers and professors that I knew. I'm sure there were not as many as men. Still, the role in business is what sort of fascinated me as an American. At that time, women in the United States did not have that kind of a role. Of course, this was reinforced when I lived in other African countries after Nigeria.

Q: What were American prime concerns during the time you were in Nigeria?

CLARK-BOURNE: In the late "70s, I don't remember.

Q: How was South Africa playing in those times?

CLARK-BOURNE: Nigeria played, and does to this day, a major role in inter-African problems. When organizations or committees were established, Nigeria was always very prominent and took charge. That was another reason why I was spending so much time in the ministries, trying to get information on African subjects.

Q: Did we have much contact within the Nigerian military?

CLARK-BOURNE: I think we did. We had an Attach#. Of course, I had nothing to do with that at all.

Q: I was wondering whether you would be in contact with the Attach#, since the military had a tendency to come in and out of running the government? From the political point of view, whatever we could get about the military should be shared, I would think.

CLARK-BOURNE: I don't remember that as happening. As I say, I had not been there very long when they decided to have the civilian form of government, so we didn't pay any attention to the military. I met Obasanjo from time to time and he was very easy for us to deal with and to work with.

Q: This was the Carter Administration most of the time you were there, wasn't it? Did human rights play any particular role at that time in Nigeria?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not that I know of. As I say, women had fairly strong roles and I never found a Nigerian who was anti-white. However, we had, occasionally, Afro-Americans in the Foreign service or one of the government agencies, and some of them were prejudiced against the Africans. This was really eye-opening to me, to see this happening. In fact, one person had to be transferred due to that.

Q: Was it easy to get into the Foreign Ministry?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, I had no problems. I could walk in without an appointment. In no time at all, I knew everybody. I could go wherever I wanted.

Q: What about the UN vote? This always was a problem. Was Nigeria a problem as far as we were concerned?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not generally, no. Of course, they usually voted with the African countries on a lot of the subjects. But they were always receptive if I had a position to give them. They would always say, “I'll take this up with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or I'll take this up with so and so.”

Q: How did Easum and Steve Low operate? How did you find working with them?

CLARK-BOURNE: Both of them were just terrific. They were very cooperative and they gave me carte blanche to run the Political Section and to do the job that they wanted me to do. They both were liked by the Nigerians. They both entertained nicely. I remain very close friends with both of them. Don is up in New York now and Steve is here.

Q: What was the impression of not only you but your officers in the Political Section about the viability as a democracy of Nigeria during this time, in the late "70s?

CLARK-BOURNE: I think everybody felt that it was only a matter of time before it would fall, because of the ethnic groups. This was Africa. This was the history. It depended upon who managed to get voted in and what the supporting ethnic groups would think of that person.

Q: Was there any concern about the survivability of Nigeria as a country?

CLARK-BOURNE: Oh, no. As I say, the Nigerians are entrepreneurs. They're very strong people and they are in the majority in Africa. There is no doubt that Nigeria will survive.

Q: You didn't see a splitting up of Nigeria?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, not in any way, although we know that they tried to at one time, but that was gone. There have been problems recently, of course, among a smaller tribal group down in the Biafran area. They claim that Mobil oil is ruining their environment and damaging their sustenance down there. But these incidents are going to occur all the time.

Q: Were the British playing much of a role?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not at all. The Brits as colonists were great after they left. They pulled out completely. Only one Brit remained in the country. That was up in the North and he was a judge. He was just there for a couple of years and then he retired. They pulled out

of all the jobs completely, whereas the French did not. They left thousands of Frenchmen in C#te d'Ivoire. They filled practically all of the ministry jobs— the big government jobs. After they pulled out and Ivory Coast started educating its own people, the young college graduates couldn't get jobs in the government because they were all filled by Frenchmen. Finally, the Ivorians told the French they had to leave. Because these Frenchmen had lived all their lives there, they didn't want to go back to France. They didn't know what to do with themselves. We had a large influx of them into Guinea when I was there and I know they went into some of the other surrounding countries. You didn't find that in any of the former British colonies. The Brits just left.

Q: You left Nigeria when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '79.

Q: And then whither?

CLARK-BOURNE: Back to the Department to become Deputy Director of the Office of West African Affairs.

Q: You were there from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '80 to '82.

Q: Who was in charge of African Affairs at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: Some of the time, it was Chet Crocker, and some of the time, it was Dick Moose as Assistant Secretary. But the Director of the Office of West African Affairs first was Bob Bruce and then Parker Borg.

Q: What countries did you have?

CLARK-BOURNE: All of the West African countries, both Anglophone and Francophone. When I left, I was replaced by two people, one for the Francophone and one for the Anglophone.

Q: What were your main concerns?

CLARK-BOURNE: I don't remember any main ones. They were all the little nitpicky things that were always going on.

Q: Reagan came in in '81. I was wondering whether you saw any particular change at that point?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, not at all. You know, Africa basically, in American foreign policy, was not at the top. It never was. Many of the problems we had when I was in Africa and in the Department concerned American businesses who wanted to do business in various countries. They might have problems in the various countries where they were operating—oil companies, or bauxite or diamond mines.

Q: In one of the West African countries, I can't remember exactly when it happened, but in Liberia when there was the violent overthrow of...Were there any...?

CLARK-BOURNE: I can't remember any big problems of overthrows or changes of government at that time. Most of the countries were still under dictatorships, such as Guinea and Sekou Toure—he was a civilian. You have Houphouet-Boigny in C#te d'Ivoire. Most of these were people who'd been around for quite a while and most of the overthrows came after the time I was there.

Q: You left there when?

CLARK-BOURNE: In '82.

Q: And where did you go then?

CLARK-BOURNE: I went to Guinea as DCM.

Q: Guinea as...?

CLARK-BOURNE: Guinea, Conakry. There's Guinea Bissau and Guinea. Conakry is the capital of Guinea. It was Francophone. Guinea-Bissau was Portuguese. This was over on the West Coast, near Senegal.

Q: Who was the Ambassador at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: I had two of them: Alan Davis and Jim Rosenthal.

Q: When you got there, how did they use you as the DCM? Every Ambassador sort of has their own...?

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, Alan was the first one. He wasn't there too long. I was the usual: running the place on the inside. But he did have me go represent our government in the ministries. But, as I say, he wasn't there too long.

Jim Rosenthal came in and Jim just sort of turned everything over to me. He'd been DCM in Philippines, I believe, before he came there. He said, “Kay, I never got to travel in the Philippines. I never got to do anything because I just had to run the Embassy. So, you're going to run the Embassy here. I'm going to get out and meet people and travel.” That he did and I had some of the greatest challenges in my life while I was there, let me tell you.

Q: Let's talk about them.

CLARK-BOURNE: On one occasion, he went off to visit his friend, Bill Miller, who was the Ambassador in Ivory Coast. As Charge, I was awakened at four one morning by the duty officer. A cable came in from the Department, saying that the King of Saudi Arabia had

sent them a telegram, saying that his pal, Sekou Toure, the Guinean Head of State, had had a heart attack and he wanted to send an airplane in and have it take Sekou Toure to the Cleveland Clinic in the United States, which was evidently used by the Saudis. The State Department asked me to check this out and see if it were true. So, I first went to his downtown residence. There were military guards around, but they all said that Sekou Toure wasn't there. Nobody would help me. The Foreign Minister lived just down the street from me. By this time, it was five or so in the morning. The Foreign Minister was not there and his wife said she did not know where he was and she did not know where Sekou Toure was.

Well, time was fleeting and the duty officer caught up with me and said that a Saudi plane was on its way with doctors and that the King of Morocco, who was also a friend of Sekou Toure was sending a plane. Would I please tell the Guineans, because neither of these planes had permission to enter the airport. So, I dashed out to the airport and ran up the flight tower. They said, “We can't do anything. You'll have to get the Prime Minister to give us the okay to let these planes land.” So, I dashed back downtown again, went to the head of the military guarding the President's home, and said, “This is the situation. I stopped by the Prime Minister's house and he wasn't there. Where can I find these people?” Finally, he said, “I'll send a soldier with you.” First, we went to the Prime Minister's home even though I said, “He's not there.” Then he took me to a villa on the outskirts of town, which was used by the government for visiting dignitaries and left me sitting in the car outside the gate for a while. Finally, he came back and said, “Okay, we'll take you downtown to the Prime Minister's office and you can meet with the Prime Minister.”

So, we went down to the Prime Minister's office. The duty officer caught up with me again and said that the planes had been turned away and had gone to Liberia. I explained the situation to the Prime Minister and he said, “Well, there's really no need for them to send these planes in. But I'll have the airfield notified to allow them to land.”

So, I went back out to the airfield. They finally came in with lots of doctors and nurses. We all went back to the villa outside the city. By this time, they had Guinean doctors there and the Saudi and Moroccan doctors went in. I was also allowed to go in—In fact, I had to interpret for some of them. They said the Secretary had had a heart attack and agreed to medevac him to the clinic in Cleveland. So, people were rushing around to pack up. We set out in a caravan of cars. By this time, it was late afternoon or evening. When a big caravan goes through the streets of Conakry, people usually stop and stare. But there were no flashing lights or police cars preceding the caravan. It was very quiet and nobody took much notice of us. We got out to the airport and they had to decide which plane to take. Just as we had thought that everybody was on, one of the doors burst open and four or five people came dashing down the stairs of the airplane. It turned out that Sekou Toure's suitcase had been locked up in the hold. So, they had to get it out and get it up to where he was. They finally took off. Of course, by this time, it was the middle of the night. I went back to the office and got off all my cables to everybody. Of course, nobody had visas or passports and New York and Cleveland and the State Department had to be warned. I went home and collapsed for a little while.

But then the cables started coming in. The first one said that, soon after Sekou Toure got there, he died. Then they said that the plane that was bringing his body back was coming in at a certain time. And then the cables came in that the leader of our delegation would be Vice President Bush and the Secret Service people were going to precede him and set everything up. Well, I lived in the Embassy for the next week. Fortunately, we had a commissary in the basement and I had a couch in my office. The Secret Service, after looking things over, were not very comfortable with security in Guinea and decided they would not let Bush stay there overnight, although I had arranged for a cottage for him. They'd bring him in the morning for the funeral and take him out as soon as it was over.

On the day of the funeral they first had a ceremony in a big sports stadium and then the entourage went to a mosque that had been recently built by the Saudis. They put all of

the dignitaries, such as Vice President Bush, on an ancient, old bus, where they had to stand hanging on straps. So, as the entourage went down the streets, our Secret Service were running alongside this old bus. They got to the mosque and, as non-Muslims were not allowed inside, they had to wait outside. Finally, they returned to the Embassy and got Bush out of there. I got all my cables off and went home.

Early the next morning there was a military coup d'etat. I was awakened by the duty officer and wanted to get down to the Embassy. I set out in the middle of the night and none of the street lights were on. There were military guard posts on all the roads. The first one stopped me and said, “You can't proceed.” By the way, this was on July 4th. I told them who I was, showed them my i.d., and said, “This is our national day and I have to go to my Ambassador's.” They were very sympathetic about things like that, so they took me to a nearby police station and I was told I would have to be escorted and a civilian who happened to be there was told to escort me. He had been out of the country for 30 years and said he was a newspaper reporter. He took me over to the Ambassador's, talking me through many stop points.

When we arrived at the Ambassador's, we were told he had already left for the Embassy. My escort agreed to take me to the Embassy because he wanted to go downtown to file a story. He was carrying an infrared camera and was taking pictures of everything in the dark. We got down there and, of course, our concerns were the welfare and whereabouts of American citizens. There were not too many in Guinea— about 40 or 50—and most of them were missionaries out in the countryside. There were also some business people because there was a big aluminum extraction operation there. We tried to get in contact with as many of those as we could and to get off messages to all of their relatives in the States, saying that they were okay. It was a bloodless coup d'etat, by the way—there was no shooting.

The new military colonel took over as the new head of state. Sekou Toure had taken over as head of state when the French left in 1958. He was, in a way, a dictator, and most

everything was nationalized with businesses being run by the government. Well, the new guy wanted to denationalize business. People, for the first time, felt they could talk freely and openly on the streets. Little businesses were sprouting up and it was a very good time. He was very open and friendly to us—we had good entree.

Q: What were American concerns in Guinea?

CLARK-BOURNE: When we first got there, when Sekou Toure was still in charge, it was primarily his relationship with the Russians, as were our concerns in most countries. He was friendly with them. After he took over he had come to us for help to develop his country. As we had no interests there at that time, we weren't really interested so he turned to the Russians.

Q: When you were there, we're talking about what, '80, '82?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, we're talking about '82 to '85.

Q: What was the role of the Soviets at that point?

CLARK-BOURNE: You didn't see them around much. They had an embassy and they were giving monetary support to Sekou Toure.

Q: Were there any strategic elements to Guinea?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, not at all. As I say, it was very undeveloped—backward. We had no interest there. There was one American aluminum company and that was about it. And about 40 missionaries. For instance, we had to ship in all of our food from Denmark. You could buy fruits and vegetables and that was all. Occasionally, you'd go to a market and you might see a carcass of a chicken covered with flies hanging from a stall, but not too often. There just was nothing there.

When I first went there, there was one French hotel that had a restaurant in it. There were one or two restaurants in town and that was basically it. The first month I was there, I decided to take three friends out for dinner one night to this one restaurant. I wanted to see what it was like. I was told, “Bring your own wine because they'll charge you $100 for a bottle of wine,” so I brought wine. Well, they had no choice on what to order. They served us chicken in peanut sauce on rice and some salad and, for dessert, a big piece of pineapple cut up in pieces. They didn't even have coffee. Well, it cost me over $300 for four people.So, social life was just among ourselves, primarily, and the other embassies. Of course, we had social affairs and invited Guinean officials, but they didn't entertain very much. They couldn't afford to. They didn't have anything to entertain with, let's put it that way. So, it was a simple life.

Q: Did you have the usual thing, of trying to get the Guineans to vote correctly at the UN, or was it sort of a lost cause?

CLARK-BOURNE: Very often, the Ambassador and I were received by Sekou Toure and he would listen to us, but generally he would side more with the USSR.

Q: Were there any other elements there, like the Libyans or did anybody really pay much attention?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, Sekou Toure had his personal friends, the King of Morocco and the Saudi Arabians. He talked the Saudis into building a very nice mosque.

Q: Did the country play any role in the African context?

CLARK-BOURNE: Not too much, no. They interacted with the other Francophone countries in various meetings occasionally, as they still do today.

Q: How about the French? Was there much French influence there at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: Interestingly, not too much. But, as I mentioned before, half way during my tour there, a lot of French people came in from C#te d'Ivoire looking for jobs. By this time, of course, we'd already had our coup d'etat and there were jobs opening up. There was a Francophone school. My first Ambassador's wife was a French woman and she taught in the school. French was the major language there.

Q: You left there...?

CLARK-BOURNE: In '85.

Q: First, did you find any change in our relations after Sekou Toure died?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, our relations improved immensely because the new head of state, as I said, was trying to cancel out whatever Sekou Toure had done with regard to nationalizing businesses. He was trying to privatize everything and of course, he would ask for advice on various things.

Q: In '85, where did you go?

CLARK-BOURNE: I went to Cameroon, to Douala, as Consul General.

Q: You were there from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '85 to '87. That was interesting because the capital of Cameroon is Yaounde, which is up north in the mountains. Douala is a seaport and is far larger. The capital is almost a country town in comparison. All the businesses are in Douala, which is the economic center. The only international airport at that time was in Douala. I think they now have one in Yaounde. So, anybody who wanted to go to Yaounde would have to come to Douala and then transfer to Cameroon airlines for Yaounde. They had offshore oil and a good-sized seaport, as I've said. We and the Brits had banks and businesses of various kinds. Equatorial Guinea was next door and our Embassy there had

a representative, a local employee, in the consulate general. Everything that came over for their capital came in through that port, so he took care of all that kind of stuff. All shipments for the embassy came in through Douala, so he took care of transferring them to Malabo. All shipments for Cameroon, Chad, and Central African Empire, also came into the port of Douala, so much of our time was spent handling those shipments

We had a commercial attach# but did not have an economic officer. The economic officer was stationed in Yaounde. So, I sort of covered the political and economic scenes. I had an administrative assistant and a good-sized Cameroonian staff. But, as far as consular activities, there were not really that many and there were not that many Americans around.

Half way through my tour, it seemed a waste of resources to keep this as a consulate general. I thought it should be downsized to a consulate, unless they were willing to transfer the economic section to Douala where all the economic activity was, which they weren't. Well, Washington agreed with me. This was interesting because I made the same recommendation in Rotterdam when I was there and nobody would listen to me. So, I spent my last year there downsizing the CG. I managed to find a position for every local employee that I let go. Fortunately, new American businesses were coming in that needed staffing.

I had another challenge shortly after I arrived in Douala. I was exploring the building, trying to find out where everything was. I noticed a ladder going up into the attic and climbed up the ladder to see what was up there. The building was an 'L' shape. We were at the bottom part of the L and the leg up had several apartments that Cameroonian citizens lived in. This attic was open over both areas. I was appalled at the security risk and wondered why it had been allowed all that time. So, I immediately went in to the Department recommending that we take over the other wing or move. USIA had an office downtown and coincidentally, they were looking to move at that time. So, we got them to agree to move in and got the tenants out. We remodeled it the way USIA wanted it. As we

did not have a good motor pool or parking area, we took advantage of the remodeling and got walls put up for that. So, that was a nice challenge.

Q: What sort of a government did the Cameroons have when you were there?

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, as in Guinea, a civilian government, but sort of what we would call “dictatorial,” not absolutely open. We were so involved in working with all of the shipments that came in and the business scene that I did not get too much involved with political things.

Also, the Ambassador, Myles Frechette, was not too cooperative when it came to reporting. For instance, when I had been in the Office of Fisheries Affairs, I had worked very closely with people in NOA and NMFS. One of the guys over there had said, “By the way, when you go to Cameroon, we would very much like a report on their port and fishing activities. Could you do that for us?” I said, “Sure, let me get a chance to get settled in.” Well, I did, and the Ambassador reprimanded me for sending in the report.

Q: He was who?

CLARK-BOURNE: He was the Ambassador in Yaounde. He said, “You should have asked the Economic Officer to do that.” Well, I had been told the Consulate General had a certain amount of leeway in reporting.

Q: Of course it does.

CLARK-BOURNE: And I sent copies of everything to him. In this instance, he sent a cable to the Department telling them that he was withdrawing that report. Of course, Commerce already had it and I got a nice cable from them thanking me so much.

Q: Were there problems of corruption and theft and all that in the port? One hears that sometimes getting things into ports of some countries are quite difficult. Here you had quite a volume of things coming in.

CLARK-BOURNE: We had a lot of things coming in and we never had any problems. That doesn't mean that there might not have been problems. Maybe they respected embassies.

The very first week I was in Cameroon, I had an interesting experience. I received a cable saying that a representative from the Smithsonian was coming in with a large shipment of antiquities from one of the kingdoms up in the Northwestern part of Cameroon, which the Smithsonian had borrowed for an exhibit that had been shown around the States. In fact, I had stopped in New York City and had seen the exhibit on my way to Cameroon. I was asked to make arrangements for her to get everything returned. Well, this was quite a challenge. We, of course, had to get trucks. There was a lot of stuff. There were barely one-lane dirt roads in some places. I'll never forget the first night when we stopped to stay overnight. I had to rent a room just for the antiquities, because she would not leave them outside. She was too afraid something would happen to them. We got them up in the mountains to their owners, who were very kind to us. It was good for me because I got to see some of Cameroon before I got stuck in my routine in Douala. It was an interesting time.

Q: You left in '87?

CLARK-BOURNE: That's right.

Q: And where to?

CLARK-BOURNE: Back to the Department, to the Office of the Inspector General.

Q: You were there from when to when?

CLARK-BOURNE: '87 to '89. I was forced to retire in '89. I'd reached age 65.

Q: In the Office of the Inspector General, who was the Inspector General at that time?

CLARK-BOURNE: The guy that just left before Jacqueline Bridger came.

Q: Sherman Funk?

CLARK-BOURNE: Sherman Funk, yes.

Q: How did he operate? He was the first non-Foreign Service Inspector and his coming and the new creation of this office was rather controversial.

CLARK-BOURNE: We didn't have much to do with him. His office was in the Department of State. We were out in Rosslyn. He gave complete authority to the Director of the Office of Inspections. Sure, when we'd come in and write our report, we'd go and present it to him. He was always very nice to deal with. We always had good meetings. We'd have, of course, other people who were interested sit in on the meetings, give us whatever suggestions they had before we finalized the report. As all the reports were sent to Congress, we had to be careful. If there was anything that we felt should not go into the report, we would put in a separate, classified memo.

Ambassador Bob Barber was team leader. I was on teams inspecting Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and England, all of which were fascinating—especially Saudi Arabia, and especially as a woman.

Q: What was your impression of looking at the operations in Saudi Arabia or in London? I mean, these were not your areas of dealing, so you often, you might say, had a clearer eye of how things were being done. What was your impression of how the Foreign Service operated?

CLARK-BOURNE: Well, the first impression was that they were badly overstaffed. They all could have been reduced in half. People sitting around without anything to do. In England, a secretary came up to me and said, “I've been here almost a year and I haven't had a thing to do. Can't you do something about that?” So, you go to the boss or the Ambassador and they don't want their empire cut down. They refused to take any suggestions. Even when we wrote them up, they wouldn't do anything about them.

When you're on an inspection team, you're given a certain responsibility. Mine was, as a political officer, always to inspect the political section. Of course, you look at what they're putting out and how the people are being utilized, etc.

Q: What was your impression of how the political reporting function was being carried on where you inspected?

CLARK-BOURNE: I thought they seemed to be doing a good job, except for the fact they were often underutilizing their personnel. But they were getting out the stuff that was needed and wanted.

Saudi Arabia, I suppose, would have been a real problem for any woman officer there. I, as a woman officer in another Islamic country (as I mentioned before, in Iran), had no problem whatsoever. But Saudi Arabia was different. I couldn't believe it. I'm used to getting out and walking and I wanted to walk from my hotel over to the embassy. Well, a woman was not allowed to walk down the street alone. Women could only ride in the last two rows of the bus and they had to be accompanied by somebody. Women could not drive cars unless they were accompanied by a husband, father, or son.

The Saudis were such hypocrites about everything. When we were there, the Ambassador's wife was sponsoring an art show of an American woman artist, which was set up in the embassy, and she invited a lot of ranking Saudi women to a reception. As they came in the door, there was a closet just inside and they took off their chadors. They

had on the latest Parisian fashions. You'd go into a restaurant or, a hotel dining room and there would be a bar that looked just like an American bar, with bottles behind the bar and wine glasses hanging from the ceiling. But, of course, the bottles did not contain any alcoholic beverages. There would be a bucket at the entrance, with ice and what looked like a champagne bottle. Of course, it wasn't champagne. It was some nonalcoholic drink. But why pretend that it was alcoholic? I couldn't understand the thinking that went on there at all.

But the embassy, I felt, was doing a very good job. I was impressed. It was so different. We went from Saudi Arabia to Bahrain which is also an Islamic country. The Saudis after work on Thursday night all get into their big limousines and go over the causeway from Dhahran to Bahrain. There, they took over the hotels. They had all of their various wives and many kids. They were up all night getting drunk. We learned, while we were in Bahrain, to stay off the streets at night and on the weekends. They'd careen around town. The hotel was awful because their doors would all be open and they had T.V. and radio blaring loudly and they'd all be running up and down the halls on their drinking binges. Then they'd go back to Saudi Arabia for the week! Bahrain was quite liberal, obviously.

Q: I was in Dhahran back in the late '50s. There wasn't a causeway and, actually, there weren't relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia at the time, but we used to cover Bahrain from Dhahran. So, we'd fly over. You could go to the one hotel there, the Speever House, and get some beer, which you couldn't get anywhere else. Also, we'd stock up on booze, which we'd take in footlockers. Everybody knew what we were doing, but we'd wave our diplomatic passports and bring booze back for the Consulate General and sometimes for the Ambassador.

CLARK-BOURNE: In Dhahran, did you have this experience of drinking in secret?

Q: No, I didn't. There might have been this, but it certainly wasn't apparent. The big money had not hit. It was still pretty fundamental where we were. We would drink with non-

Saudis. There probably was a little, but not much. But, when you get really big money and sophistication and all that, it's pretty hard to sit on.

How about London? I imagine that that's always a place where you might say the morale isn't that great, it's too big an Embassy and people were lost..

CLARK-BOURNE: That's true. I think there were over 600 people when I was there. The morale was not good. As I say, a lot of it was because people didn't have enough to do. The reporting that I looked into was good. They had good entree to anybody that you would expect in England and were covering everything the way they should. But, as I say, we recommended they really cut down and nobody did anything about it. They never followed up on our recommendation. That makes it sort of discouraging, being in the Office of Inspections, to make recommendations and not have them taken.

Q: Did you get involved in any sort of emergency inspections because of crises or problems?

CLARK-BOURNE: No, those were the only two inspections that I had. Then I had to retire. But then they kept me on for two years after I retired to edit all of the inspection reports. As I say, they had to go to Congress and we had to be very careful. My major in university had been mass communications and I had edited a newspaper.

Q: What were we concerned about going to Congress? That this might be used against people?

CLARK-BOURNE: Yes, especially if there were any recommendations involving certain individuals, and there may well be. These were the kinds of things that were personal things, which shouldn't get out.

Q: Were there Congressional offices that we were particularly concerned about?

CLARK-BOURNE: No. It was just, as I say, certain things I had to keep an eye out for. Sometimes maybe you'd have an Ambassador and a DCM that didn't get along together. You might want to recommend that somebody be replaced or transferred. You don't want things like that to go into the report itself.

Q: Particularly if it can be used by a group that are really trying to get at the Administration or something to cause trouble and it has nothing to do with anything outside of the normal working.

All right, why don't we stop at this point?

End of interview